



# WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS

State of Wisconsin  
Department of Workforce Development  
Office of Economic Advisors

## FOR WEST CENTRAL WISCONSIN COUNTIES

BARRON, CHIPPEWA, CLARK, DUNN, EAU CLAIRE, PEPIN, PIERCE, POLK, ST. CROIX

August 2004

### Unemployment rates continue to drop

Unemployment rates dropped in all nine counties in the West Central region in July and for many the current rate is the lowest posted in July in the last three years. The July unemployment rate for the region was 4.2 percent, down from 5.1 percent in June and lower than the 5.7 percent rate from one year ago.

The unemployment rate for the Eau Claire-Chippewa metropolitan statistical area was 3.9 percent, not

seasonally adjusted, and was lower than the 4.8 percent unemployed in June and 5.0 percent from one year ago. Seasonally adjusted the metro rate was 4.4 percent in July.

The comparable seasonally adjusted rate in Wisconsin was 4.7 percent, reduced from 5.0 percent in June; and the national July unemployment rate of 5.5 percent was down from 5.6 percent in June.

Unemployment rates typically decline in July as the region and

state approach the annual high-water marks for employment. Employment in the region's counties typically peaks between July and August depending on the prominent industries in the county.

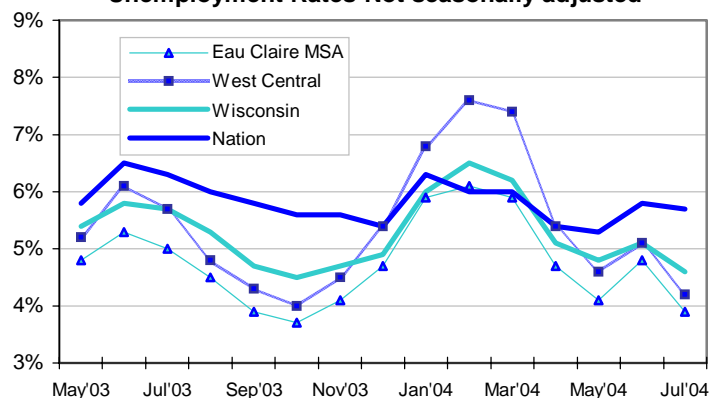
The greatest reduction in the region occurred in Barron County where the rate dropped 1.7 percentage points from 6.2 percent in June to 4.5 percent in July. One year ago the county rate was 5.4 percent. The greatest reduction among the state's 72 counties from one year ago was in Polk County where the unemployment rate dropped from 8.6 percent in July 2003 to the current rate of 4.6 percent.

Overall, 66 counties statewide posted lower unemployment rates from last July and 67 counties had lower rates from one month earlier.

As the number of residents with jobs increased in July the number who were unemployed declined by nearly 2,200. Out of a total labor force in July of 244,272 in West Central Wisconsin, 10,283 were unemployed and 233,989 had jobs.

In the metro area the total la-

Unemployment Rates-Not seasonally adjusted



	May'03	Jun'03	Jul'03	May'04	Jun'04	Jul'04
Eau Claire MSA	4.8%	5.3%	5.0%	4.1%	4.8%	3.9%
West Central	5.2%	6.1%	5.7%	4.6%	5.1%	4.2%
Wisconsin	5.4%	5.8%	5.7%	4.8%	5.1%	4.6%
Nation	5.8%	6.5%	6.3%	5.3%	5.8%	5.7%

### Civilian Labor Force Estimates\* for West Central Wisconsin counties: July 2004

	Barron			Chippewa			Clark			Dunn			Eau Claire Co.		
	Jul '04	Jun '04	Jul '03	Jul '04	Jun '04	Jul '03	Jul '04	Jun '04	Jul '03	Jul '04	Jun '04	Jul '03	Jul '04	Jun '04	Jul '03
Labor force	25,757	25,805	25,293	32,764	32,716	32,537	17,243	17,370	16,548	23,529	24,198	23,045	57,369	57,215	56,788
Employed	24,596	24,212	23,938	31,400	31,052	30,759	16,437	16,336	15,572	22,709	23,231	21,975	55,218	54,605	54,090
Unemployed	1,161	1,593	1,355	1,364	1,664	1,778	806	1,034	976	820	967	1,070	2,151	2,610	2,698
% unemployed	4.5	6.2	5.4	4.2	5.1	5.5	4.7	6.0	5.9	3.5	4.0	4.6	3.7	4.6	4.8
	Pepin			Pierce			Polk			St. Croix			West Central region		
	Jul '04	Jun '04	Jul '03	Jul '04	Jun '04	Jul '03	Jul '04	Jun '04	Jul '03	Jul '04	Jun '04	Jul '03	Jul '04	Jun '04	Jul '03
Labor force	3,452	3,419	3,284	21,891	22,055	21,774	23,077	23,802	24,489	39,190	39,421	39,323	244,272	246,001	243,081
Employed	3,286	3,234	3,104	21,022	21,061	20,710	22,021	22,443	22,383	37,300	37,371	36,747	233,989	233,545	229,278
Unemployed	166	185	180	869	994	1,064	1,056	1,359	2,106	1,890	2,050	2,576	10,283	12,456	13,803
% unemployed	4.8	5.4	5.5	4.0	4.5	4.9	4.6	5.7	8.6	4.8	5.2	6.6	4.2	5.1	5.7

\* not seasonally adjusted

## Industry Employment Estimates for West Central Wisconsin: July 2004

(Employment in thousands)	Barron			Clark			Dunn			Pepin		
	Jul '04	Jun '04	Jul '03	Jul '04	Jun '04	Jul '03	Jul '04	Jun '04	Jul '03	Jul '04	Jun '04	Jul '03
Total Nonfarm	21.9	21.9	21.6	10.2	10.5	10.0	15.6	16.3	15.3	2.2	2.2	2.2
Const/Min'g/Nat. Resources	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.2	0.2	0.2
Manufacturing	6.7	6.1	6.6	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.2	2.1	2.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Trade	3.5	3.5	3.5	1.4	1.4	1.4	2.8	2.8	2.7	0.5	0.5	0.5
Transportation & Utilities	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	1.7	1.7	1.8	0.1	0.1	0.1
Financial Activities	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.1
Education & Health Services	2.2	2.2	2.2	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.6	1.6	1.4	0.3	0.3	0.3
Leisure & Hospitality	1.9	1.9	1.9	0.9	0.9	0.8	1.6	1.6	1.5	0.3	0.3	0.2
Info/Prof. & Bus.Serv./Other	1.7	1.7	1.7	0.8	0.7	0.7	1.3	1.3	1.3	0.2	0.2	0.2
Total Government	4.1	4.7	3.9	1.9	2.2	2.0	3.2	4.0	3.3	0.5	0.5	0.5
	Pierce			Polk			St. Croix			Eau Claire MSA		
	Jul '04	Jun '04	Jul '03	Jul '04	Jun '04	Jul '03	Jul '04	Jun '04	Jul '03	Jul '04	Jun '04	Jul '03
Total Nonfarm	9.8	10.5	9.4	14.1	14.7	14.6	27.6	27.8	27.2	78.3	78.7	77.6
Const/Min'g/Nat. Resources	0.7	0.7	0.5	0.8	0.7	0.8	2.0	1.9	1.8	4.0	3.9	3.7
Manufacturing	1.1	1.1	1.1	3.6	3.6	3.7	5.4	5.2	5.5	11.5	11.3	10.9
Trade	0.6	0.7	0.8	2.2	2.2	2.2	4.5	4.5	4.3	12.4	12.7	12.9
Transportation & Utilities	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	1.1	1.1	1.0	2.8	2.9	2.8
Financial Activities	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	1.2	1.2	1.1	3.7	3.6	3.7
Education & Health Services	1.2	1.2	1.1	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.8	2.9	2.8	12.7	12.7	12.4
Leisure & Hospitality	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.1	1.1	1.3	3.7	3.6	3.4	8.2	8.1	8.1
Information/Prof. & Bus.Serv.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.5	1.5	1.4	4.0	3.9	4.0	8.4	8.3	8.2
Other Services	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	3.9	3.9	3.8
Total Government	3.0	3.5	2.7	2.1	2.7	2.4	3.0	3.5	3.2	10.7	11.3	11.1

Current month preliminary. Estimates based on March 2003 benchmark. Summing from unrounded numbers.

bor force in July was 90,130 with 3,500 unemployed and 86,620 employed. Job expansion in July added 960 residents to the count of employed, nearly matching historical increases for the month.

While the number of employed residents increased in July the number of jobs with local employers in the metro area declined. This often occurs in the middle of summer as self-employment (included in the number of employed residents) increases but jobs with local employers, especially schools, declines. The two sets of employment estimates also move in opposing direction when residents with two jobs lose one for the summer but continue to be employed in the other. The result is a lower job count but not a lower count of residents with jobs.

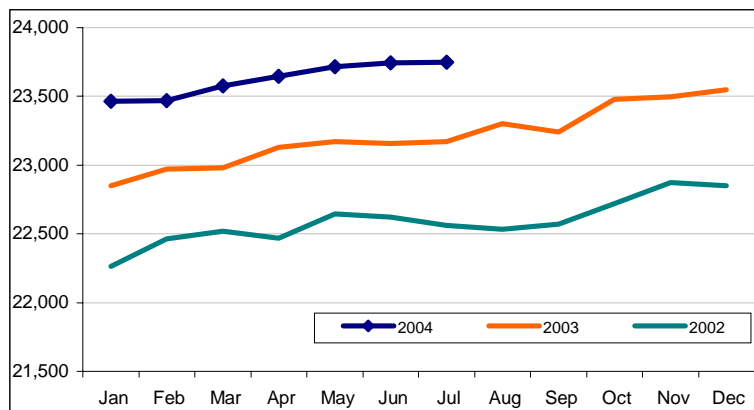
All nine counties in the region reported fewer jobs in July and in all counties the greatest reductions occurred government. The loss of

government jobs reflects reduced employment during the summer months with area schools and this reduction will continue through

August when most summer classes end. The counties with colleges and universities posted the greatest loss of jobs in June.

Most of the counties in the region did report more jobs this July than one year ago. Employers in the region added 1,700 jobs in the previous twelve months. Education and health services with 580 more jobs than one

Education and Health Services Jobs in West Central



year ago posted the largest increase, but that was followed by an increase of 460 manufacturing jobs. This was the first month since 2000 that manufacturing jobs were higher than in the same month one year earlier. Production jobs have been slowly increasing since March of this year. Good news since job reductions announced earlier this year are on the horizon.

Find the most current Labor Market Information at: [WWW.DWD.STATE.WI.US/LMI](http://WWW.DWD.STATE.WI.US/LMI)

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